

1888, ch. 259.

373. It shall be the duty of the said board to contract for and cause to be constructed in the city of Baltimore on the most advantageous terms, according to their judgment, a first-class steam vessel, of such model and with such machinery and equipments as they may deem most suitable for the purpose of keeping open and free from ice the harbor of the city of Baltimore, and access thereto.

Ibid.

374. The said board is further authorized and directed to appoint a suitable superintendent of the construction and management of the steam vessel mentioned in the preceding section, as well as suitable officers and crew for the navigation and employment for all the purposes for which she can be used, at such reasonable salaries as the said board may determine, subject to removal in the discretion of the said board, and also to make and cause to be obeyed and executed all such rules and regulations as they may consider necessary and proper for the control and direction of the said steamer, and of all persons connected with her; and the said board is further required to cause the said steamer to be employed, so far as it may deem prudent and proper during the seasons when the said harbor is unobstructed, in towing vessels and aiding and promoting the ingress and egress of the same to and from the said harbor, and in and upon the Chesapeake bay and the Patapsco river, and the harbors of Annapolis, Chestertown, Cambridge, St. Michaels, Oxford and Crisfield, at such moderate rates as the board may establish, regard being had to the interests and facilities of commerce, and in any other service which the board may deem proper for the protection of property in and about such harbor and the waters giving access thereto; provided, however, that said vessel shall not be so employed in towing in anywise when her services as an ice-breaker shall be needed, except in the cases of vessels in distress, bound to or from said city, in which service she may be employed by the board at any time, and her services, if any, shall be paid for only as in the nature of towage, and not of salvage service; provided, however, that the said ice-boat shall not be required to keep the harbors of Annapolis, Chestertown, Cambridge, St. Michaels, Oxford and Crisfield free of ice as above required